

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. In the present Office Action, the Examiner has maintained his previous rejection of claims 1-11, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the patent application of Kwon in view of the patent to Westrope, as well as the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kwon in view of Westrope, and further in view of the patent to Parkin et al. Additionally, claims 12-15 are again identified as containing allowable subject matter. Further according to the Office Action, claims 12-15 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the indicated claim rejections, claims 1-18 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of applicant's right to pursue patent protection for the subject matter thereof in a subsequent application. The canceled claims have been replaced by new claims 19-22, provided herein. These new claims are completely supported by the application as originally filed and thus they raise no issue of new matter. The replacement claims are written in a manner which is believed to completely distinguish the invention over the prior art cited in the Office Action to reject applicant's previous claims. Entry of this Amendment into the file of the present application is respectfully solicited since it is believed to place the entire application in condition for allowance, or at a minimum, to materially reduce the issues for an appeal. Upon such entry, claims 19-22 will be pending in the application.

Turning now to a discussion of the references cited by the Examiner to reject the original claims of this application, applicant notes that new independent claim 19 has been written to include features of the present invention which, it is believed, are neither taught nor suggested in the cited prior art. These features relate, *inter alia*, to the first set of arms. The new independent claim recites that the first arms (2) are formed with incuts (12), the outline of which comprises two curved end sections and intermediate segment (14) at a tangent to the end sections, all of which are located in the same plane. The incuts (12) cause a narrowing at the base of the wings and the pillars. This construction facilitates flexing of the first set of arms (2) when these arms are clipped into the opening in the bodywork, without resistance in the upper area of the wings in the incuts (12), which permits one to clip the device into the opening with little effort.

Additionally, as further recited in applicant's claim 19, arms (2) are provided with longitudinal strips (21) which are curved inwardly, thus defining a rounded outer contour. This arrangement facilitates the insertion of the clip of the invention into the opening (5') defined in

the body work sheet. The arms (2) are provided with opposing incuts (19) into their side edges adjacent to the channel (15) which, along with the incuts (12) adjacent to the base of the clip, cause corresponding narrowings.

Applicant contends, *inter alia*, that at least these features of the present invention are not taught or otherwise described in Kwon or Westrope, whether those references are taken individually or in combination. As such, new claim 19 is believed to distinguish the invention over these references and thus to be in condition for allowance. Moreover, new claims 20-22 all depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 19 and thus these claims are also believed to distinguish the invention for the same reasons as claim 19.

Still further, as indicated above, the Examiner combined the patent to Parkin et al. with Kwon and Westrope in rejecting applicant's original claim 16 under §103(a). Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the subject reference adds nothing to the teachings of Westrope and Kwon so as to arrive at the presently claimed invention. As such, the invention as now recited in new claims 19-21 is also believed to be distinguishable over Parkin et al., whether viewed alone or taken in combination with either or both of Kwon and/or Westrope.

SUMMARY

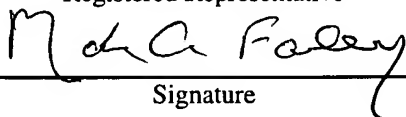
For all of the reasons above, new claims 19-21 are believed to distinguish applicant's invention over all of the prior art cited to reject original claims 1-18. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the claim rejections attributed to the prior claims so that this application may be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, he is respectfully invited to telephone applicant's representative at the number below to arrange for such an interview.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: November 23, 2005

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Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

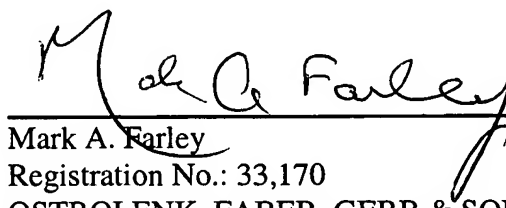


Signature

November 23, 2005

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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